



Communications

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For Immediate Release

April 9, 2002

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County Board awards more than \$500,000 for affordable housing

WAUKEGAN, IL – At its meeting today, Tuesday, April 9th, the Lake County Board awarded over a half million dollars for affordable housing initiatives in Lake County. In total, the board appropriated \$521,625 for four county affordable housing programs.

A Safe Place, a shelter for battered women and children, received \$150,000. Habitat for Humanity received \$281,625. The Highland Park Housing Commission received \$75,000. The Village of Round Lake Beach received \$15,000.

The Lake County Board authorized award of the funds after its Community and Economic Development and Financial and Administrative Committees jointly approved the grants.

“This is a county funded initiative that can compliment other programs or fill the gap where programs don’t meet the need. We are proud to take a proactive approach to help create more affordable housing in Lake County,” said Peggy Shorts, county board member and chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee.

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The Affordable Housing Program provides financial assistance to municipalities, nonprofit and for-profit entities to develop and maintain the housing stock of low and moderate-income residents. The program had \$600,000 to allocate this fiscal year. On-going funding for the program is now part of the County's Capital Improvement Plan budget, which allows it to be an annually budgeted item pending approval of the county board.

Program activities that are eligible for county assistance can involve rehabilitation or construction activities, conversion of underutilized non-housing or brownfield properties, employer assisted housing programs and first time homebuyers programs.

Eligible agencies have several deadlines for submission of applications: July 1st, October 1st or January 1st. Lake County Affordable Housing Funds will not be available again until January 2003 pending county board approval of the new 2003 county budget.

Additional information regarding the Lake County Affordable Housing Program can be obtained by calling the county's Community Development Division at (847) 377-2150.